

Speech

Subject: Granny D asks for high gear
Date: Sat, 10 Jan 2004 18:55:04 -0500
From: Granny D project <dburke@americantownhall.org>
To: Undisclosed-Recipients;

To be removed, reply with REMOVE in the subject line.

Dear Friends,

If the election of 2004 is to have a happy outcome, we all have to do a great deal of work.

Doris "Granny D" Haddock and some volunteers have been traveling to learn what works and what doesn't in regard to voter registration among potentially progressive voters --especially working women and single women.

We are in Florida now. Some of what we are doing is great fun, though it has serious reasons behind it: I urge you to see the road log atop <http://GrannyD.com>, which shows her working among Florida alligators to give the regular employees, working women, a moment off to register to vote. Also see the Doris registering waterpark mermaids to vote--another successful idea for getting television stories urging working women to register.

We have learned that many, many people are upset about the political situation and that they need only a little convenience and a little invitation to step into the ring as new voters. The alienation that people feel is melted by the personal invitation--the invitation to help decide the future of our society as a voter. We don't have too many coming-of-age ceremonies--this is indeed a meaningful one.

We need your help in several important ways.

First:

EMAIL BLITZ TO WORKING WOMEN: It is essential that we get email messages to as many of America's working women as we can, urging them to register the workers around them. Doing so is very easy for them online at <http://GrannyD.com>, or <http://WorkingWomenVote.org>.

Here is the kind of message that would be helpful to send out to people you know in workplaces, and to the members of professional and semiprofessional organizations:

"Dear _____, The 2004 election will decide the direction of issues of great importance to our personal lives, including our civil freedoms, our environment, education funding, social security, medicare, retirement pensions, workplace safety, minimum wage and overtime pay, and many, many critical issues--including world peace and justice and the very survival of Mother Earth as we know her. Every working woman needs to look at the issues and the candidates, and make her best choices for a better life, as she sees it. IN ADDITION TO DOING SO FOR HERSELF, working women need to help their coworkers get registered to vote. You can do that for them by calling-up <http://GrannyD.com> on your office computer and getting them registered. And you can help them with absentee ballots, if they have a long commute or a difficult schedule, and you can be there to remind them to vote when the time comes. Please go to <http://GrannyD.com> to get started, and let me know what you think. Please also send this to all

the working women you know. Sincerely, _____."

Second:

MALL NIGHTS: We have had great success in "walk-around" voter registration in shopping malls and on retail main streets. In malls, don't take a clipboard (you'll get tossed out) --just put a few registration forms in a shopping bag and go shopping for new voters. Ask about price and color, then ask if, by the way, they are registered to vote--that you a volunteer voter registrar and have the form right with you. Young people are best approached by young people, as older people are best approached by older people (although the most action will be among young clerks and shoppers, who are ready to vote and motivated to see change.) For this work, you should first visit your county voter registration office to get a supply of state forms. Make a friend there, get some advice, and take those forms back to that person when they are signed. Shoot a copy first and hold onto it for get-out-the vote projects (including ours).

If you attend candidate MeetUps, why not end or start the evening with some walk-around voter registration at a mall? Pick one evening a week to be Mall Night. If we do that nationally, we'll make a big difference. Let's also pick nights to hit the fast food restaurants. We find that the night workers have the time and definitely have the inclination to register.

We will have a little download brochure on the GrannyD.com website soon that will give people an idea of how voting works and it will outline some of the issues and colliding worldviews at play in 2004--written in nonpartisan but factual text. This little "Owners Manual for the United States of America" will help you help those who say, "I don't know enough about any of it."

By the way, first time voters will be asked to provide a photo ID when they go to vote, unless a photocopy of an ID was attached to their registration form. If it is convenient, you might try to do that so that they will not have a problem at the polls. You might be able to use a digital camera to shoot their driver's license if you have a macro setting (the tulip icon). Otherwise, remind them to take their driver's license when they vote.

We will set up some message boards on GrannyD.com for the Mall Night and Fast Food Night campaigns, where we can share ideas and lessons learned.

If you are in Florida, let me know how we can connect with you for speaking, lodging, walk-around VR, etc.

We are at a moment when we see what can be done and what needs to be done, and we could make good use of volunteers willing to serve as state captains and regional captains. They would be asked to coordinate as much communication as possible to state and local women's groups, activist groups and the press. Let me know if that sound's like a good use of your time.

Thank you if you are one of the many friends who have made a contribution to our project. It really helps to have some resources as we go along and to not have to worry about the price of gas and sandwiches. Your continuing help is much appreciated--and thanks so much to the volunteers who have fed and housed us when we are in friendly territory.

Other requests: if you have ideas for zany jobs that Doris can do,

- relieving working women while they register, let me know. Zanier the better, to drive the TV stories. Regionally appropriate stories (eg: Gators in FL) work best and will help us move to national talk shows soon. If you have connections among progressive churches in Florida for Sunday presentations by Doris (to round up volunteers), or progressive bookstores (same reason), let me know.

Sincerely,

Dennis Burke on the road with Granny D

We are guests today of Emily Stokka, a waitress in St. Petersburg

Ps. Don't forget to see Doris up to her vest in alligators:

<http://GrannyD.com>